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and

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Forum Outcomes

Dr. Elbert Friday and Dr. Paul Try presented the outcomes from the Forum. They started by providing the salient points from Dr. James Mahoney's presentation on a system solution. To optimize that solution, Drs. Friday and Try reminded the Forum participants that the objective of such a system is to minimize adverse effects of accidents and terrorism events. The constraints to meeting that objective are irreducible uncertainties such as meteorological dispersion parameters and hazardous materials releases.

The presenters reiterated the Forum participants' finding that urban meteorology is a complex issue requiring a consistent message. That message should, for example, simplify the message to funding agencies and should start by defining "urban meteorology." The message should focus on an end-to-end system, emphasize societal impacts (in terms of cost/benefit), improve collaboration, facilitate partnerships, and foster the development of an integrated/coordinated program (plan).

Drs. Friday and Try noted that the Forum participants identified many issues within urban meteorology. These issues run the gamut from data, databases, instruments, siting, four-dimensional data assimilation, model, communications, formats, to applications. However, they stressed that these issues are tractable and manageable with focus and coordinated planning. A coordinated plan would address policy issues/questions and information and data needs attributes. The policy issues/questions might include:

(1) Who is in charge and what are the agency responsibilities?

(2) How much do you tell the public?

(3) What incentives are there for good behavior?

A coordinated plan would address such information and data needs attributes as being consistent, reliable, user-centric, and preloaded. Other considerations within a coordinated plan would include communications issues (e.g., science coordination mechanisms, user/producer linkage, and the appropriate amount of information) as well as an ecosystem approach (e.g., humans are a part of the ecosystem and the ecosystem is dynamic).

An urban meteorology observation strategy was the focus of several workshops and panel presentations. Drs. Friday and Try summarized that the strategy would embrace (among other things) adding instruments for urban perimeter surface/boundary layer boundary conditions coupled to broader synoptic/mesoscale flow, utilizing existing urban network data, facilitating a national urban morphological database, and establishing high resolution demonstration/test bed projects for user feedback.

The presenters ended by asserting that greater collaboration, strategic planning, and outreach should facilitate the development of an improved end-to-end urban meteorological support system.

A complete summary of the Forum, as well as the remarks from Drs. Friday and Try, can be found on the OFCM web site: www.ofcm.gov.